

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **10/594,546**
Amendment filed January 21, 2009
Reply to OA dated October 17, 2008

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A stationary phase extraction cartridge provided with an inflow side frit, a stationary phase filler and an outflow side frit from the upper side in a cylindrical cartridge body having an opened upper end and an opened lower end, the stationary phase extraction cartridge comprising:

a stopper part formed on the inner surface of the lower side of the cartridge body and projected inward to continuously or intermittently support the outer peripheral edge of the outflow side frit,

an abutting step part formed on the inner surface of the cartridge body, said abutting step part being abutted to a lower end of ~~an inserted cartridge body when inserting the other~~ the other cartridge body from an upper end opening of the cartridge body into the cartridge body;

wherein the inner surface of the cartridge body located below is continued to the inner surface of the cartridge body located above so as to be substantially flush ~~therewith~~ over said stopper part in the fitted state of the two cartridge bodies.

Claims 2-3 (Canceled)

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The stationary phase extraction cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the upper end opening of the cartridge body is set larger than the outside diameter of the lower end of the cartridge body,

wherein the inner surface of the cartridge body between the upper end opening thereof and the abutting step part located below is formed into a tapered surface having an inner diameter decreased toward the abutting step part, and

wherein the outer surface of the lower side portion of the cartridge body is formed into a tapered surface having an outside diameter increased toward the step part from the lower end.

Claim 5 (Original): The stationary phase extraction cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the stopper part includes a plurality of projected parts projected inward at a prescribed interval in the circumferential direction of the inner surface of the lower end of the cartridge body.

Claim 6 (Original): The stationary phase extraction cartridge according to claim 5, further comprising a short cylindrical lower end portion provided with the stopper part and removably attached to the lower end of the cartridge body.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The stationary phase extraction cartridge according to any one of claim 1, further comprising a flange part formed on the upper end of the cartridge body.

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Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The stationary phase extraction cartridge according to ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, wherein the cartridge body comprises a lower side portion capable of being inserted and fitted into ~~the other~~ another cartridge body and an upper side portion having an outside diameter projected outward from the lower side portion, and wherein an abutting step part for regulating the inserted position of the cartridge body located above is formed on the inner surface of the cartridge body located below so that a clearance is formed between a step part and the upper end of the cartridge body located below in the fitted state of the two cartridge bodies, the step part formed at a boundary part of the lower side portion and upper side portion of the cartridge body located above.

Claim 9 (Original): The stationary phase extraction cartridge according to claim 8, wherein the upper end opening of the cartridge body is set larger than the outside diameter of the lower end of the cartridge body, wherein the inner surface of the cartridge body between the upper end opening thereof and the abutting step part located below is formed into a tapered surface having an inner diameter decreased toward the abutting step part, and wherein the outer surface of the lower side portion of the cartridge body is formed into a tapered surface having an outside diameter increased toward the step part from the lower end.

Claim 10 (Canceled)

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Claim 11 (Canceled)

Claim 12 (Original): The stationary phase extraction cartridge according to claim 4, further comprising a flange part formed on the upper end of the cartridge body.

Claim 13 (Original): The stationary phase extraction cartridge according to claim 5, further comprising a flange part formed on the upper end of the cartridge body.

Claim 14 (Original): The stationary phase extraction cartridge according to claim 6, further comprising a flange part formed on the upper end of the cartridge body.

Claim 15 (Original): The stationary phase extraction cartridge according to claim 8, further comprising a flange part formed on the upper end of the cartridge body.

Claim 16 (Original): The stationary phase extraction cartridge according to claim 9, further comprising a flange part formed on the upper end of the cartridge body.